fertile country. Goods to Her Majesty's territory from Kadur and Shimoga Districts are now sent by carts and not by railway, because they have to break bulk at Kadur. Mr. Muhammed Ali (Representative from Chikmagalur Municipality) submitted that a Railway connection between Chikmagalur and Kadur would not be as beneficial, as if the line, instead of stopping at Chikmagalur, were extended into the Malnad farther inwards.

Dewan's reply.—The general question of Railway extension in Mysore is engaging the best attention of Government. Unless the Madras Government construct their portion of the line to Mangalore, it is useless to consider the question of a Railway from Kadur to Mangalore.

Note.—Mr. Buchanan went on to say, "I have thus, as "briefly as possible, stated our requirements and have now "only to ask that something definite regarding them may be "decided on. This is the 4th year that we have enjoyed the "privilege of personally explaining the wants and necessities "of the different districts we have the honor to represent; "but I regret to say that some of the most important of these "still await settlement. In conclusion, I wish to take this "opportunity of expressing, on behalf of the Association I re-"present, its hearty thanks for the readiness and unfailing "courtesy with which the Government of His Highness the "Maharaja invariably receives the suggestions and requests "made to it from time to time."

Subject No. 21. Gold Quartz Stealing Prevention Act.

Summary of discussion.—A special enactment is required to prevent theft of quartz and punish thieves. The existing criminal law is not adequate. A draft law was prepared and submitted, but has not yet become law. The losses which the several gold mining companies incur from theft are considerable, and are increasing in proportion to the increase in the out-put of the pits. The proposed Regulation is therefore urgently required.

Dewan's reply.—The Quartz Stealing Prevention Act is now before the Government of India and application will be made for its early disposal.

Subject No. 22. Introduction of the Panchayet system.

Summary of discussion.—The system of getting disputes settled by Panchayets should be introduced into Mysore. It was promised years ago by the late Dewan Mr. Rangacharlu. Litigation in Civil Courts is expensive and inconvenient, first on account of the heavy Court costs and lawyers' fees, and next, on account of the fact that witnesses often speak falsely, and again because numerous adjournments, in themselves inconvenient, are particularly so in small suits, and parties and witnesses whose pursuits are agricultural cannot afford to waste time in attending courts, neglecting their fields. Whereas, if local Panchayets could be had recourse to, there would

be settlement on the spot, little expense, and witnesses will be more truthful as they will not venture to speak falsely to the local men who sit on the Panchayet.

Mr. Chentsal Rao (Member of His Highness the Maharaja's Council) observed that there is a Regulation in Madras enabling Panchayet settlements. But people seldom or never avail themselves of it. They prefer Civil Courts.

The Representative Member.—But there are voluntary associations in some places in Mysore which are working well, one at Gadamanhalli for example. The Dewan asked whether it would be sufficient to order that a Panchayet may decide, if both the parties to a dispute agree to their arbitration.

Several Representative Members answered in the affirmative, and the Dewan observed that there would be no difficulty in arranging for this. But it was doubtful whether the arrangement would at all be availed of. Mr. Venkatkrishnaiya (Representative from the Rate-payers' Association, Mysore) submitted that a system of village and town Panchayets was not foreign to the country, but existed here in ancient times and only required revival and the Panchayetdars taught to constitute themselves into "Boards of Conciliation" (as in Norway) to mitigate the spirit of litigation which too often actuates the people and has proved their ruin. It should be ruled that all cases should go before them and they shall examine such cases on a small institution fee, say, 2 or 2½ Rupees. They should summon the parties and persons acquainted with the facts of the dispute, and try to effect a compromise between the parties, and failing this, decide the dispute themselves in petty cases. If they decide the dispute, the decision should be binding and take effect. If they certify that a case should go before the courts, then alone may it be admitted into courts. The speaker quoted statistics to show that the system was working well in Norway, where 88 per cent of about 104,000 cases were disposed of by these "Boards of Conciliation" to the satisfaction of all concerned, and therefore to their advantage. Mr. C. Srinivas Rao (Representative from the Chikmagalur Municipality) remarked that there was a popular impression that a decision which was not open to appeal cannot be considered satisfactory. Nevertheless a system of the kind described should prove beneficial.

Mr. Chinnappa, (Representative Member from the Chintamani Taluk) observed that appeals may be allowed from the decisions of the Panchayets and a limit fixed to the value and nature of suits which these Panchayets may decide. We may have a system of village Munsiffs with powers of arbitration. As to this, Mr. Nanjunda Rao, (Representative Member from the Davangere Taluk) observed that the village Munsiff system had proved a failure elsewhere.

Dewan's reply.—The various suggestions made shall be duly considered. Government will refer the subject of

enacting a Regulation for establishing Panchayet Courts to the Chief Court for a report with a request that they would consult District officers and other men competent to give an opinion and submit their remarks. The chief point for consideration will be whether the Panchayet Court should be authorised to hear and decide cases at the instance of either of the parties or only when both parties consent to adjudication by the Panchayet.

Subject No. 23.
A Regulation for Minor Municipalities and Rules for Village conservancy and sanitation.

Summary of discussion.—A Regulation for the conduct of the Minor Municipalities and similar rules for village conservancy and sanitation are badly required. In their absence, nuisances remain unabated alike in villages where no Municipality may be introduced and in towns like Shimoga where Municipal arrangements exist. Sanitary wants are pressing and there is great adulteration of food stuffs with impunity. Ghee is rendered unwholesome by admixture of cocoanut oil and groundnut oil. 5 or even 7 per cent of rice bought in bazars is mere sand and stone. The Indian Penal Code does not overtake the authors of this adulteration.

Dewan's reply.—A committee is working at the promised Rules and Regulations on this subject.

Subject No. 24.
Uniformity of weights and measures.

Summary of discussion.—Of weights and measures there is great variety, and there is fraud practised under their shelter. The seer varies in different places. One weight is often used by merchants for buying their stock, and a different weight for selling it. Prosecution often fails in consequence of Magistrates holding that there is no standard of weights and measures to go by. Mr. Nanjunda Rao (Representative from the Davangere Taluk) spoke to the same effect and of great inconvenience arising in his part of the country. Mr. Srinivas Josyar (Representative from the Mysore City) pointed out as an instance, the khandi differed in Mandya, Mysore, and Nanjungud, and suggested that a standard seer may now be fixed and called the Chamarajendra seer.

Dewan's reply.—A measure for the Regulation of weights and measures is under the consideration of Government. Deputy Commissioners will be asked to submit a report with samples explaining the measures and weights used in the several parts of their Districts with remarks as to the manner in which measures are used whether by heaping the grain above the rim or otherwise. Meanwhile the orders contained in the late Chief Commissioner's Proceedings No. 5084—882, dated 18th August 1876, continue to be in force.

Subject No. 25.
Inconvenient proximity of plantations to villages.

Summary of discussion.—The inconvenience arising from proximity of plantations to villages has often been brought forward and always recognised by Government and orders have been given to put back the boundary line where this is too close to villages. But these orders are often disregarded